

that recording CDs and tapes is illegal, but never really did anything about it.

In order to shut Napster down, I think you would have to stop selling the recordable CDs and recordable tapes, because it is all the same thing. And you would also have to go out onto the Internet and search for every site like Napster in order to shut them all down, because shutting one down out of thousands isn't really fair.

REGARDING ABENAKI AND NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

(By Fellicia Gagne)

I am here today to talk about the lack of academic success among minorities, specifically Abenakis. Basically what I'm going to be talking about is from last year's Vermont Framework of Standards, which all schools are supposed to take, show that 19 percent of tenth grade Native Americans met the reading and knowledge interpretation. This means that 81 percent can't read a one- to two-paragraph passage and understand and interpret what they have read.

In mathematical skills, the test shows that American Indians fall 52 percent below standards. Only 14 percent meet the standards, which is really low. The difficulty is with fractions, multiplying, et cetera. What that means is they have difficulty with basics, rather than what normal students would be able to do.

Continuing, I would like to talk about why this is happening. Abenakis are a majority of my school, and like over 50 percent fall below standards. And I don't see why that should be happening. If Abenakis aren't meeting standards now, then how do they expect to go to college, get a degree, and have a good life? That means that my people, Abenakis, would be lower in poverty, wouldn't be able to support their families, and it is just going to keep happening over and over and over again.

This has been happening for years and years, and I feel that it should have been changed long ago. What are the reasons that this is happening? Racism, maybe. It has been in society and schools for years, and probably never will leave. Also, Eugenic Survey. This could also prove what had happened during the 1920s through the '40s.

A professor at UVM thought that he would improve Vermont. He thought that he could cleanse or change genetically inferior people. Because we were different, we had to go through a phase where you had to feel uncomfortable, you couldn't be proud of who you are or what you have been as an individual, and you lost a lot of your dignity, your pride.

And, in 1931, Vermont had a sterilization law, and it remained until 1973. The effects of the survey were loss of pride, dignity, and loss of heritage. Many students today that are Abenaki either don't know it or they don't know about their heritage, because it has been lost, because of the Eugenic Survey. If someone can't be proud of who they are or who they come from, then how do they expect to show proudness in everything that they do?

Another reason why Abenakis lack the academics is because of courses in teaching at my school, students feel separated and intimidated at school. People are put in certain classes and special groups where they feel that they're not intermingled enough. They don't have the right people to be around them, where they will feel that they fit in with all these topics.

I would like to talk about how we can make things better. There will be core-plus classes next year, which means that our school is trying core-plus classes. Whether you are an honor student or an applied stu-

dent, you are going to be in the same class. That could start issues with honor students being bored or people being rushed into things.

Mr. Barnett, a teacher at my school, he tries to teach reading and writing in all of his classes. He tries to help students improving the skills that they need in everyday life. And he is one of the many at my school that are trying to change. But I think you need the whole school to help make a difference, or it's not going to—it's not going to have an effect.

Another way that you could make things better is through volunteer work. My family and I help out at a learning center. It is the Abenaki Learning Center in Swanton. Four days a week, we help kids with homework, and we try and help them understand the basics of what they need for when they get into high school. We open kids to Native American arts and crafts, and we do cooking with them.

And I feel that, if you are Abenaki or if you are not, you should know a little about the background of the Abenakis, and try and pass it on to more people. Because, as the years go by, more and more people are forgetting, and they're losing everything.

I feel that these things will help the Abenakis, and even other races of our school. Like I said, you need everybody to work together, not just a few here and there.

I want to thank you for inviting me here to speak on a topic that concerns me greatly. And I think that one day the Abenakis will earn their pride back.

HONORING RON BORSKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the efforts made by Mr. Ron Borski on behalf of all war veterans of the great State of Colorado. Mr. Borski single-handedly started a campaign to create a veterans memorial in Carbondale, Colorado. After fourteen months of maneuvering his way through the state legislature, he has succeeded in his mission.

A resolution was adopted by the state legislature on April 17, 2001 to rename the Highway 133 Bridge in Carbondale. On Memorial Day, it has become tradition that veterans throw a wreath from the bridge in remembrance of soldiers whose lives were lost in battle. This "Veterans Memorial Bridge," seems an appropriate tribute. Due to Mr. Borski's noble efforts there will be a formal dedication ceremony for the renaming of the bridge on November 11, 2001. A monument will also be dedicated at the Scenic Overlook off of Highway 82, which looks out to the bridge.

Mr. Speaker, this project was the vision of one man who worked tirelessly in the name of all veterans. He undertook this mission on his own and saw it through to the end. I would like to recognize Ron Borski for his commitment to such a worthwhile cause. The State of Colorado and veterans across the country appreciate Ron's contribution.

CHILDREN'S VISION AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Children's Vision Awareness Day. Vision Services Plan, which is headquartered in Sacramento, California, has joined forces with several non-profit organizations to develop the Sight for Students program. This charitable program is designed specifically to help children in need of vital eyecare services. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of Vision Services Plan and their tireless work and determination to bring proper vision care to our nation's underprivileged children.

Whereas, our children represent the future of this great nation and deserve every opportunity to succeed in the classroom, at play and life in general;

Whereas according to the United States Center for Health Statistics, only 14 percent of children in the United States under the age of 6 receive an eye exam;

Whereas vision problems affect one in four school-age children, according to Prevent Blindness America;

Whereas untreated eye problems can affect learning ability, adjustment in school, athletic ability and self-esteem;

Whereas Vision Services Plan which has their headquarters in Sacramento, California has a Sight for Student's Program to help low-income, uninsured children obtain the proper vision care that they so greatly need;

Whereas the Sight for Students program covers the cost of an eye examination and glasses or medically necessary contact lenses as well as vision therapy and treatment.

Whereas numerous community agencies, such as America's Promise, Prevent Blindness America, Head Start, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Communities in School, have joined forces with Vision Services Plan to address this issue;

Whereas these many partners have come together to hold vision awareness events across the country on September 26, 2001, National Children's Vision Awareness Day.

Since 1997 Vision Services Plan and the Sight for Students program have provided free eye exams and eyewear to nearly 90,000 children across the nation who would not otherwise have access to these services. I applaud their efforts and I am proud to lend my support to this program.

BILL BRACE HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long and dedicated record of public service of Bill Brace, who is retiring after 31 years of working for the people of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He has served as city clerk for 29 years and for five of those years, he has also served as city administrator. He will be honored with a retirement dinner on Sept. 28.